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Chairman Genachowski Federal Communications Commission 445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W. Washington, DC, 20554

In the Matter of: Nomination for Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors, CC Docket Nos. 97-21 and 96-45

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

The Talbot County Board of Education is writing to support the nomination of AASA Executive Director Daniel A. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) Board of Directors. Specifically, we support his nomination to the position currently held by Anne Bryant, pursuant to § 54.501. We welcome the opportunity to submit this letter of support.

Talbot County Public Schools supports the important mission of the E-Rate program. Expansion of our network infrastructure, support of the 1-1 laptop program, and purchase of SMARTBoards are direct benefits of the E-Rate program in Talbot County Public Schools.

We strongly support nominating Dr. Domenech to the USAC Board; his leadership at AASA—and AASA's proven track record as an excellent advocate for the E-Rate program—make us confident that he will be a strong addition to the USAC Board.

With more than 40 years of experience in public education, Dr. Domenech has extensive education and leadership experience, including first-hand experience of the critical role of telecommunications and connectivity in schools. Further, his direct link to public school systems provides a sense of continuity when it comes to representing school system-level thoughts and opinions, as he would fill the spot currently held by the NSBA.

In today's increasingly global and competitive world, a top-notch education and the building of lifelong learning skills require access to education technology, and Dr. Domenech is acutely aware of the crucial role the E-Rate program plays in helping schools afford telecommunications connectivity.

Beyond his years in the classroom, which include extensive teaching and leadership experience, Dr. Domenech has served on the U.S. Department of Education's National Assessment Governing Board, on the advisory board for the Department of Defense schools, and on the Board of Overseers for the Baldrige Award. He is currently chair for Communities in Schools of Virginia, the Learning First Alliance, the Educational Research Service and the Board of Visitors for the College of Education at the University of West Georgia. He serves on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the National Student Clearinghouse, Americas Promise, the Center for Naval Analyses, and the Sea Research Foundation.

The Talbot County Board of Education strongly supports the appointment of Dr. Domenech to the Universal Service Administrative Company Board of Directors. We believe that Dr. Domenech's broad understanding of education, education leadership and education technology, coupled with a strong work ethic and deep commitment to expanding educational opportunities to the nation's students will add to the work of USAC as it moves forward. His nomination to the USAC board provides continuity and leadership, filling the chair currently held the National School Boards Association with the voice of another school system leader, that of the school administrator/superintendent.

For these reasons, we respectfully request your approval of Dr. Domenech's nomination to the USAC Board of directors, representing schools that are eligible to receive discounts.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sandra E. Kleppinger

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